



# COOK COUNTY HEALTH

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**COOK COUNTY HEALTH**  
**REPORT TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS**  
**August 30, 2019**

## **Employee Recognition**

Recently, the Cook County Health C.A.R.E. (Connecting Adolescents to Resources, Education / Employment) Interns celebrated the completion of their summer program. This program was designed to introduce and provide opportunities in health care careers to area youth living on the south and west sides of Chicago. College interns worked in various hospital departments gaining on-the-job experience, while our high school interns participated in a summer enrichment course, which combined classroom activities with hands-on experience and a research project identifying an issue within their communities and discussing how they could make an impact. Thank you to CCH staff who helped mentor our interns this summer and provided them with an enriching experience, including **Alecia Boyd, Lezah Brown-Ellington, John Daley, Maureen Froncek, Juandalynn Johnson, Rudolf Kumapley, Kelsey Moore, Barbara Pryor, Karen Williams and Wayne Wright.**

Thank you to our team members who volunteered at the **90<sup>th</sup> Bud Billiken Day Parade** on August 10, making it another successful year of representation for CCH. Staff provided medical care along the parade route's first-aid stations and handed out information about the health system's services. Provident Medical Director, **Dr. Arnold Turner**, Provident Hospital Operating Officer **Tanya Seaton** and Community Outreach Worker **Xandria Hair** led this year's team, including: **Phillip Alanis; Debra Ali; Paul Allegretti; Heather Allen; Michelle Andrews; Kelly Baskin; Wade Bluck; Stephen Cambilak; Davine Carter; Gregory Doss; Gail Floyd; Marcelino Garcia; Jim Gannon; Stequita Hankton; Sasha Haran; Kate Hedlin; Ralph Jackson; Kimberly Johnson; Jing Li; Whitney Lyn; Keith Morton; Christine Newton; Amila Nissanka; Rajae Patton; Audris Pinkerton; Silvia Oliveros Plascenia; Wayne Pollard; Kary Raines; Melanie Ripley; Sylvester Smith; Tyahna Smith; Willie Stallworth; Pierre Wakim; Leo Watkins; Henry White; and April Wright.**

**U.S. News & World Report** has recognized Stroger Hospital as a high performing hospital across three specialties for 2019-2020: Gastroenterology and GI surgery; Heart Failure; and Neurology and Neurosurgery. Being designated as a high performing hospital puts CCH in the top 10 percent of health care organizations nationally with almost 5,000 medical centers evaluated nationwide. Rankings were determined by several factors including patient outcomes, patient experience, physician expertise and quality of care. A hospital must excel in caring for the sickest, most medically complex patients to receive a national specialty ranking. Thank you to our Gastroenterology team led by **Dr. Bashar Attar**, Chair of Gastroenterology and Hepatology; our Cardiology team led by **Dr. Rami Doukky**, Chair of Cardiology, **Dr. Tareq Alyousef, Dr. Arlet Nedeltcheva, Sarah Voll and Criselda Yulo**; our Neurology team led by **Dr. Lakshmi Warrior**, Chair of Neurology, **Dr. Izabela Biesiada and Dr. James Dorman**; and our Neurosurgery team led by **Dr. Yogesh Gandhi**, Chair of Neurosurgery, and **Dr. Diane Sierens.**

## Activities and Announcements

- On July 29<sup>th</sup>, CCH filed a **Certificate of Need (CON)** application with the Illinois Health Facilities & Services Review Board (IHFSRB). If approved, **CCH plans to build a modern and efficient inpatient and outpatient facility on a vacant parcel next to the current Provident Hospital**. The facility will include expanded outpatient services and downsized inpatient facilities. Additionally, the new building is expected to reduce the number of Provident patients needing to travel to the Stroger campus for services not currently provided at Provident. In keeping with CCH's mission, the modern replacement facility will help ensure the provision of state-of-the-art care to individuals in the communities surrounding Provident regardless of their ability to pay.

### IMPACT 2020 Objectives 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 2.1

- On August 21<sup>st</sup>, Dr. Shannon, Christine Haley, Director of Housing and Leticia Reyes-Nash, Director of Programmatic Services and Innovation presented at the **National Academy for State Health Policy's Health and Housing Institute**. The team shared CCH housing initiatives. With support from the U. S. Health Resources and Services Administration, NASHP convenes a [state Health and Housing Institute](#) to address the challenges of sustainably financing health and housing initiatives. Multi-agency teams from state Medicaid, housing, and partner agencies in Illinois, Louisiana, New York, Oregon, and Texas work to break down state agency siloes, control costs, and improve vulnerable populations' health through housing.

### IMPACT 2020 Objective 6.1, 6.3

- On August 22<sup>nd</sup>, CCH participated in the **Chicago and Cook County Flexible Housing Pool** press conference announcing more than \$1.8 million in new investments, including the first private investments in the program. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois and Advocate Aurora Health are investing a combined \$1.5 million over the next three years to support the City and its partners' collaborative efforts to align housing, tenancy and wraparound support services for those most at-risk for homelessness. Also, UI Health has pledged a \$281,000 contribution this year and \$350,000 for FY 2020 for the FHP. The FHP pairs wraparound health and social services with a housing subsidy to support residents experiencing homelessness with a focus on super-users of local crisis response systems such as hospital emergency rooms, police stations, paramedic calls, jails and shelters. Since the implementation of the program began in March of 2019, the FHP has housed 26 residents who were previously experiencing homelessness. CCH previously pledged \$1 million to the program.

### IMPACT 2020 Objective 6.1, 6.3

- CCH employees will be participating in the 36th Annual **UNCF Chicago Walk for Education** on Saturday, September 14. The walk is a community fundraising event, which provides students with financial assistance for college.

### IMPACT 2020 Objective 6.3

- On Wednesday, September 18, CCH will host its third **Research and Innovation Summit, Connecting Care for the Justice-Involved**. The summit will provide a forum for discussing how to improve care for those impacted by the criminal justice system. Specifically, the summit will give participants the opportunity to learn about CCH's justice initiatives and innovative solutions to link patients to resources. It will also include a session for people to collaborate in order to develop actionable plans to address this critical issue.

#### **IMPACT 2020 Objective 1.6, 7.1**

- **Cook County Health Foundation's Annual Gala and Awards Event** will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at the Hilton Chicago. The gala will raise funds for CCH cardiology and endocrinology services. Funds will be invested in expanding lifestyle centers to help patients manage their health. Invitation is attached.

#### **IMPACT 2020 Objectives 3.2, 6.3**

- On Friday, September 27, CCH will host a **graduation ceremony** for the latest cohort of **Navy corpsmen** who participated in **Hospital Corpsman Trauma Training**, a partnership between Navy Medicine, the Capt. James A. Lovell Federal Health Care Center, and Stroger Hospital. The corpsmen assist surgeons as they treat patients with life-threatening injuries, allowing them to experience trauma care before treating injuries sustained on the battlefield.

#### **Food As Medicine**

- Through August 19, CCH's Fresh Truck partnership with the Greater Chicago Food Depository (GCFD) has resulted in 205 visits to 13 CCH health centers – Arlington Heights, Austin, Cicero, the CORE Center, Cottage Grove, Englewood, Logan Square, Near South, Oak Forest, Provident/Sengstacke, Prieto, Robbins, and Woodlawn.

Collectively, the Fresh Truck distributions have resulted in the provision of fresh fruits and vegetables to 26,990 individuals, representing 89,491 household members, totaling more than 550,000 pounds of fresh produce. Most of the individuals benefiting from the Fresh Truck screened positive for food insecurity at a CCH health center visit.

- **CCH Fresh Markets** are offered in the south suburbs. Fresh produce is supplied by Black Oaks Center, a nonprofit that seeks to create a just, holistic, and local food system through education, entrepreneurship, and access to healthy, affordable foods. CCH partners with Experimental Station's Link Up Illinois Link Match program to offer SNAP users with a match on all purchases at CCH Fresh Markets, up to \$20/market/week. The Fresh Market schedule is:
  - Oak Forest Health Center on Wednesdays, 9am-2pm
  - Robbins Health Center on Thursdays, 11am-3pm
  - Cottage Grove Health Center on Fridays, 9am-2pm

#### **IMPACT 2020 Objectives 1.1, 6.2, 6.3, 7.4**

## **Legislative Update**

### **Local**

- On July 17 the Cook County Finance Committee conducted a FY2019 Mid-year Budget Hearing. Departments across the County appeared to discuss their respective anticipated year-end budget gaps and strategies to address. CCH was represented by Debra Carey, Deputy CEO for Operations and Ekerete Akpan, CFO who spoke to a projected \$103M deficit as of May 31, 2019. Since that time CCH received \$77M in GME funding from the state, which was included in the FY2019 budget but had not been received by May 31. To close the remaining \$26M, CCH will be delaying hiring of a number of unfilled positions and reviewing contracts to realize savings. CCH anticipates ending FY2019 balanced.
- On July 18 the Cook County Audit Committee met to review the FY2018 Comprehensive Annual Financial Report (CAFR). CCH CFO Ekerete Akpan, along with representatives from RSM, CCH's Auditor, appeared before the committee to address material findings and CCH's corrective action plan.
- At the July 25 Cook County Board President Preckwinkle and members of the Board of Commissioners introduced a Lead Poisoning Prevention Ordinance which was referred to the Cook County Board's Health & Hospitals committee. The proposed ordinance was drafted by the CCH's Cook County Department of Public Health (CCDPH) and allows CCDPH to bring noncompliant homeowners to administrative hearings when they fail to fulfill their legal obligations to mitigate lead paint found in homes of exposed children. It also provides a process by which CCDPH can write rules to intervene at lower blood lead levels should the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommend changes to intervention levels in the future. The proposed ordinance aligns with state law, regional ordinances, local plans, and research on lead poisoning prevention best practice. It will apply throughout CCDPH's suburban Cook County jurisdiction. A hearing on the proposed ordinance is anticipated in September
- Also on July 25 the Cook County Board's Health and Hospitals committee met to discuss the Office of the Independent Inspector General's (OIIG) report on CountyCare finances. The meeting was chaired by CCH Board Director Dennis Deer. CCH Finance Chairman Robert Reiter and Dr. Shannon appeared before the committee and addressed Commissioner's questions. Also in attendance were Board Chairman Hammock, Directors Mary Driscoll, Mary Gugenheim and Mike Koetting. An additional hearing on the matter may be scheduled in September after CCH's official response to the report is submitted to the OIIG.

### **State**

- The Illinois General Assembly is scheduled to return to Springfield October 28-30 and November 12-14 for the Fall Veto Session. The schedule for the 2020 Spring Session has yet to be announced, but will likely start in mid-January 2020 and run through May 31.
- The Governor signed SB1321 on August 5. SB1321/Public Act 101-0209 is also referred to as the Medicaid Omnibus Bill, which passed the House and Senate unanimously.

PA 101-0209 intends to address challenges with the state's eligibility system and resulting delays in processing Medicaid applications and redeterminations. The bill also seeks to improve the

relationship between providers and Medicaid MCOs by requiring HFS to establish a claims dispute resolution process, establishing policies and timelines for MCOs to update provider rosters, and ensuring stakeholder engagement in efforts to improve MCO operations and further develop value-based payment models. Unless otherwise noted, provisions of PA 101-0209 took effect immediately.

- On August 7, 2019 Governor Pritzker appointed Kent Slater to the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board. Mr. Slater served two terms in the Illinois House of Representatives in the 1980s, is a retired appellate judge, and serves as a counsel at a law firm in Joliet. His appointment requires Senate confirmation.

## **Federal**

- Congress is currently out on a six-week August recess, having completed two of its most critical tasks before legislators returned to their districts.

### **Budget and Appropriations**

- Negotiations between House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.), Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) and Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin yielded a two-year budget agreement, lifting the strict discretionary spending caps imposed by the Budget Control Act of 2011 and suspending the public debt limit through July 2021. The leaders also committed to not include “poison pill” policy riders in appropriations bills. The bill, H.R. 3877, the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2019, increases the FY2020 and FY2021 discretionary spending limits for defense and nondefense spending. It also sets limits for the Department of Defense Overseas Contingency Operations funding, which is exempt from discretionary spending limits; and adjusts the FY2020 discretionary spending limits to accommodate funding for the 2020 Census.

Senate Appropriations Committee staff will be working through the recess to prepare each of the twelve annual bills funding the federal government. Though the House has passed ten of its FY 2020 bills, they will need to be adjusted because they assumed lower defense and higher domestic spending levels. When Congress returns after Labor Day, it will only have three weeks to fund the government before the end of the fiscal year. In order to speed the process, bills will need to be packaged together into so-called “minibuses” to take to the floor. The Defense and Labor-HHS-Education bills are likely candidates to be paired, as they balance Democratic and Republican priorities and comprise almost 2/3 of federal discretionary spending. In any case Congress will almost certainly need to pass one or more continuing resolutions (CRs) to keep money flowing and the agencies running while they finish the appropriations process.

### **Medicaid DSH Cuts**

- The House Energy and Commerce Committee marked up H.R. 2328, the Community Health Investment, Modernization, and Excellence Act of 2019 on July 17. The bill includes provisions which would repeal the reductions to Medicaid disproportionate share hospital (DSH) payments imposed by the ACA for FY 2020 and FY 2021 and reduce the FY 2022 cut to \$4 billion. The cuts for FY 2020 and FY 2022 would not simply be delayed, or pushed into the out years, but rather repealed or “bought out.”

The DSH sections include provisions which would require CMS to begin making states’ upper payment limit (UPL) hospital demonstrations data public, beginning with state FY2022. Another would require the Comptroller General of the U.S. to report to Congress, within 21 months of

enactment, on potential legislation to establish an equitable formula for determining DSH allotments for States. The report must consider the states’

1. level of hospital uncompensated care costs;
2. expenditures for hospitals, including UPL supplemental payments, and other related payments; and
3. policy decisions that may affect the level of uncompensated care costs (*e.g.* ACA Medicaid expansion).

It is not clear when the bill, and other health care measures may get floor time in the House.

Senate staff continue to indicate that the health bills, including high profile measures to address surprise billing and prescription drug prices, may get floor time in September. The County’s Senate delegation supports a DSH cut delay and Democratic leadership have said that it is a priority. In addition to timing, questions on a legislative vehicle and offsets remain outstanding.

### **Public Charge**

- The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a long-awaited final public charge rule on August 14, 2019, with a scheduled effective date of October 15, 2019.

Public charge is a test applied to immigrants who seek to enter the United states (i.e. obtain a visa) or those who seek Legal Permanent Residency (i.e. a green card) and determines whether these immigrants will be “primarily dependent” on the government for subsistence. The new final rule makes dramatic changes to the long-standing policy by expanding the public benefits programs that may be counted in a public charge test and considers specific factors such as age, health, family status, income and resources, and education and skills as part of the “totality of circumstances” that weighs into whether someone may be likely to use public benefits in the future.

The final rule targets key public benefits that help many meet basic needs, including:

- Medicaid (with exceptions for emergency Medicaid; coverage for children younger than 21 years; coverage for pregnant women including during the 60 day postpartum period)
- Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, formerly known as food stamps)
- Housing programs – including public housing, Section 8 housing vouchers, and Project-based Section 8
- Cash assistance – including Social Security Income (SSI), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), local or tribal programs

The final rule is prospective and takes into account applicable public benefits used on or after October 15, 2019 for green card or visa applications that are postmarked on or after October 15, 2019.

While the new test will apply to a very specific and relatively small group of immigrants, the broader “chilling” effect may result in hundreds of thousands of immigrants and their families who decline to apply for or dis-enroll from public benefit programs, despite the fact that the final rule has no impact on them and that eligibility for these programs have not changed.

The downstream impact on Cook County Health and others will be significant. Reductions in health insurance coverage will lead to increase utilization of emergency rooms by individuals who do not have access to primary care, resulting in increased uncompensated care; CCH alone is projected to lose \$30M annually. Public health is also at risk, given that insured individuals are three times more likely to be vaccinated compared to those who are uninsured.

Several lawsuits have been filed by advocates, counties, and states in an effort to halt or further delay the implementation of the final rule. CCH has been working with local and national partners to review the final rule and refine communications to our staff and patients, with a reiteration of our mission to continue to provide health care to everyone, regardless of insurance status, immigration status, or ability to pay.

Attached is a copy of the comment letter submitted last December by CCH in opposition to the Public Charge Rule as well as a white paper developed to educate public officials, staff and the media about the impact of public charge.

**Protection of Medicaid remains a key priority for CCHHS at both the State and Federal level.**

## Community Outreach

September 4	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Greater New Mt. Eagle Health &amp; Wellness Fair</b> , hosted by the church's nursing ministry, which is located at 12301 S. Michigan Avenue in Chicago.
September 7	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Malcolm X College Service Days</b> , which is hosted by the <b>Wellness Center of Malcolm X College</b> at the school, located at 1900 W. Jackson Boulevard in Chicago. This event for the students and community will provides services such as health insurance enrollment, counseling, mental health support services and nutrition education, to name a few. The <b>Austin Health Center CCHIP team</b> will do HIV testing at the event.
September 7	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>First Ladies Health Initiative</b> , which seeks to provide HIV testing at African American Churches in Chicago and Cook County. Our HIV/Aids service providers from the CORE Center, Provident Hospital and SSHARC will help with the testing at the event, which will take place at Burnham Park at 39 <sup>th</sup> Street and Lake Shore Drive in Chicago. This year instead of testing at the churches, all educational and testing activities will happen at the park.
September 7	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>National Kidney Foundation of Illinois' Living with Kidney Disease and Transplantation</b> event, which will take place at the Illinois Institute of Technology's Herman Hall located at 3241 South Federal Street in Chicago. The goal of this event is provide participants a unique forum that allows them to understand their diagnosis in a supportive environment and lets them access whatever information they might need about medications, insurance, diet, treatment options, and more.
September 8	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Bellwood School District 88's Back to School Bash</b> , which will take place at Memorial Park located at 3101 Washington Boulevard in Bellwood.
September 10	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Brookins' 7th Annual Community Health Fair</b> , which is hosted by <b>Brookins Life Celebrations, 21st Ward Alderman Howard Brookins, Commissioner Stanley Moore and State Representative Justin Slaughter</b> in the grounds of the Brookins Funeral Home located at 9321 S. Ashland in Chicago.
September 11	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Palatine Township Health &amp; Happiness Fair</b> which will take place at the Township offices located at 721 S. Quentin Road in Palatine. This annual Health and Happiness Fair offers free screenings, educational presentations and information to keep individuals and families continually thinking about healthier life alternatives and choices. Staff from the <b>CCH Arlington Heights Health Center</b> will promote the health services offered at their facility.



September 12	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>City of Chicago Senior Fest 2019</b> which takes place at Millennium Park located at 201 E. Randolph Street in Chicago. More than 3000 seniors attend the yearly event where they get their flu shots and receive other health related information.
September 13	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Maywood Fest</b> , which is hosted by the Village of Maywood and its Board of Trustee in collaboration with Annual Maywood Fest committee, will take place at the Veteran's Memorial Park in Maywood.
September 13	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Boulevard Recovery Month Picnic</b> , which takes place at their facility located at 3456 W Franklin Boulevard in Chicago. The Boulevard is a Garfield Park organization that helps care for the homeless and this event marks National Recovery Month.
September 18	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Cook County Department of Homeland Security Emergency Preparedness Fair</b> , which will take place at Daley Center Plaza located at 50 W. Washington Street in Chicago. At the event, attendees can take a firsthand look at the response team equipment, meet public, private and non-profit agencies that provide disaster relief for the community, build their own personal preparedness kit and participate in fun activities.
September 18	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Marillac St. Vincent Family Services - Marillac Social Center Resource Fair</b> that is sponsored by the Marillac Social Center and takes place at the Center located at 2859 W. Jackson Boulevard in Chicago.
September 21	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Bloom Township High School Parent University</b> , which will take place at Prairie State College located at 202 S. Halsted Street in Chicago Heights. Organizers are planning seminars for parents on a variety of useful life enrichment topics and will involve students in a variety of leadership roles throughout the day.
September 24	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>LEARN Health Fair</b> which will take place at the LEARN Charter Herro Campus located at 3021 West Carroll Avenue in Chicago.
September 28	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>State Rep. Debbie Meyers-Martin Health &amp; Wellness Fair</b> , which will take place at the Atrium Venue located at 4151 W. 183rd Street in Country Club Hills.
September 29	Cook County Health and CountyCare promotion at the <b>Trinity United Church of Christ Mental Health Expo</b> , which will take place at the church located at 400 W. 95th Street in Chicago.

The quarterly **Advisory Council meetings** for the following health centers will take place this month:

- September 11 – **Cottage Grove Health Center** – 1645 Cottage Grove Avenue, Ford Heights, IL
- September 12 – **Englewood Health Center** – 1135 W. 69th Street, Chicago, IL

**Near North Health Service Corporation** is hosting a two back to school health fairs on September 14 and they invited all MCOS to participate. CountyCare will have an informational table at these health fairs throughout the summer. Special promotion of the CountyCare Rewards program will happen at these events.

- **Komed-Holman Health Center** – 4259 S. Berkley Avenue, Chicago, IL 60653
- **Winfield Moody Health Center** – 1276 N. Clybourn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60610

The **GCFD Fresh Food Truck** visits for the month of September include the following ACHN Health Centers.

- September 5 – **Prieto Health Center** – 2424 S. Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60623
- September 10 – **Provident Hospital/Sengstacke Health Center** – 500 W. 51<sup>st</sup> Street, Chicago, IL
- September 17 – **Woodlawn Health Center** – 6337 S. Woodlawn Avenue, Chicago, IL 60634
- September 19 – **Arlington Heights Health Center** – 3250 N. Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights, IL 60004
- September 20 – **CORE Center** – 2020 W. Harrison Street, Chicago, IL 60612
- September 24 – **Logan Square Health Center** – 2840 W. Fullerton Avenue, Chicago, IL 60647
- September 26 – **Oak Forest Health Center** – 15900 S. Cicero Ave. Oak Forest, IL 60452